

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

July 9, 2008

Mr. August Busch
1 Busch Place
St. Louis, Missouri, 63118

Re: **Anheuser-Busch Relationship with Montana Barley Growers**

Dear Mr. Busch,

I write to you today on behalf of Montana malt barley producers and their communities. As you know, roughly 25 percent of Anheuser-Busch's malting barley comes from Montana's high plains. You also know the value of our malting barley from a sheer quality standpoint. Simply stated, Montana produces some of the best malting barley in the world.

Montana's decades-long relationship with Anheuser-Busch has been beneficial both for the company and for barley producers in north-central and northeastern Montana. Busch Agricultural Resources has invested heavily in new facilities in Fairfield, Conrad and Sidney, and has at least \$1.7 million in payroll and benefits in those communities. In years of low supply and high barley prices, producers may grumble a bit that their contracts peg the price too low, but they are also very aware that these forward contracts provide stability and the assurance that they can raise their crop at a profit – something they can take to the bank.

The symbiotic relationship enjoyed by these Montana producers and Anheuser-Busch is one that I sincerely hope will continue as we in Montana watch the headlines about a potential buyout of Anheuser-Busch. American grain, produced by American farmers must continue to be our shared priority. As negotiations move forward, I ask that you honor this long-standing partnership, making sure that the needs of producers in Montana and America remain a priority in the production of Budweiser and other Anheuser-Busch brews.

Sincerely,


BRIAN SCHWEITZER
Governor